

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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21

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 SY-10

PA-04 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /062 W

----- 070192

R 230745Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9219

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1148

E.O. 11652: DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: CASC, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS AND FLETCHER TRIAL TO BEGIN SOON

REF: NEW DELHI 0285

1. AN MEA (AMERICAN DIVISION) OFFICIAL INFORMED THE EMBASSY JANUARY 23 THAT THE HOME MINISTRY HAD SANCTIONED A TRIAL OF HARCOS AND FLETCHER UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT. A CHECK WITH UNDERSECRETARY ASHOK GUPTA OF THE HOME MINISTRY REVEALED THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY MINISTER UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT, THE PREVIOUS WEEK, BUT THAT THE OFFICIAL SANCTION ORDER WOULD NOT GO FORWARD TO THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TRIAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN CALCUTTA SOON THEREAFTER, AND GUPTA THOUGHT THAT THE TRIAL WOULD BE IN OPEN COURT.

2. IF THE TRIAL SHOULD BEGIN IN THE FIRST HALF OF FEBRUARY, IT WOULD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDE ELECTIONS IN NEGALAND, MANIPUR, ORISSA AND UTTAR PRADESH, AND PROCEEDINGS IN OPEN COURT MAY RAISE ISSUE OF AMERICAN "SPIES" OPERATING IN INDIA.

3. FOR CALCUTTA: DEFENSE LAWYER DEUDHEWALA CALLED AT THE EMBASSY JANUARY 22. HIS INQUIRIES AT THE HOME MINISTRY DID NOT REVEAL THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON SANCTIONING THE TRIAL.

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AS HE HAS NOW RETURNED TO CALCUTTA, SUGGEST YOU NOTIFY HIM OF

THE ABOVE AND SEE IF HE CAN OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EITHER  
FROM THE HOME MINISTRY HERE OR FROM THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

SCHNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974NEWDE01148  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740122/aaaaatyr.tel  
**Line Count:** 65  
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**Office:** ACTION SCS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** NEW DELHI 0285  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <23-Jul-2001 by maustmc, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2002 by morefirh>  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HARCOS AND FLETHERTIAL TO BEGIN SOON  
**TAGS:** CASC, IN  
**To:** STATE LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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